



Michigan Earn and Learn Initiative
Information for Interdepartmental Collaboration Committee for
Community Ventures

1. Primary Target: The Michigan Earn and Learn Initiative (Earn and Learn) prioritizes program services to low-income, disconnected, at-risk youth (18-24) especially young minority males, ex-offenders re-entering the workforce, and chronically unemployed adults with limited workforce attachment. Earn and Learn operates in Detroit, Highland Park, Hamtramck, Flint and Saginaw.
2. Purpose/Goal of Initiative: During 2009 the State of Michigan sought funding commitments from national and local philanthropic organizations for use in conjunction with public funds to augment and enhance the scope of the No Worker Left Behind Program in targeted urban areas experiencing some of the state's highest rates of unemployment, significant poverty levels, elevated high school dropout rates, and low rates of basic educational attainment.

Earn and Learn utilizes philanthropic and public investments to create and fund immediate, subsidized job opportunities that are structured to provide incentives for concurrent participant involvement in employment-related education and training programs. Fundamentally, Earn and Learn involves three core elements: subsidized employment, education and/or training activities, and barrier resolution through comprehensive case management. In addition to the three core elements, Earn and Learn also provides follow-up services (e.g., resume writing, interviewing skills, work-readiness skills, etc.) to help participants transition from subsidized to permanent unsubsidized employment.

3. Funding and Resources: A total of \$13,900,000 (\$7,500,000 nationally and \$6,400,000 locally) of philanthropic investments from national and Michigan-based foundations are committed to Earn and Learn; \$10,100,000 of the philanthropic commitments are awarded. The State of Michigan also committed up to \$7,500,000 to match the national philanthropic investments and has supplied \$4,900,000 thus far.
4. Needs/Gaps/Connections/Overlaps: *Needs* – In order to receive the maximum available philanthropic funding commitments, Earn and Learn needs up to \$1,500,000 during 2013 to match the current Michigan-based foundation awards.

Gaps – Transportation barriers were identified as a significant issue for Earn and Learn participants in all four areas because of the extensive number of providers and sites involved in the work readiness components, subsidized employment, education and training activities and case management services. Some problems with accessing substance abuse treatment programs were also identified because many recruited individuals needed such treatment before they could gain work experiences successfully.

Connections – The Open Society Foundations' connection to the State of Michigan for Earn and Learn has brought the state closer to and enhanced its relationships with the Charles Stewart Mott, W.K. Kellogg, Skillman, and Joyce Foundations, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan New Economy Initiative, and several community-based organizations.

Overlaps – Earn and Learn is a transitional jobs program and thus blends standard workforce investment services always available through the One-Stop System with supported work and customized education and training opportunities. In addition, Earn and Learn operates in most of the same cities/urban areas targeted by Community Ventures - except for Pontiac - and also targets many of the same disadvantaged individuals for services.

5. Notes: As of December 31, 2012, 1033 individuals were active in Earn and Learn.